

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-17, 19, and 20 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 18 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,345,186 to Schultz in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0160773 to Gresham et al. (herein "Gresham"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Independent Claim 1 is amended by the present response to recite:

wherein the evaluation signals are signals that indicate at least one of a deficient part in the received information signal at said wireless terminals, propagation environment, and capability of wireless terminals.

Thereby, independent claim 1 incorporates limitations as recited in previously pending dependent claim 2. Similarly, independent claim 17 is amended to recite the above-noted feature as was recited in previously pending dependent claim 18. The claimed features are believed to distinguish over the applied art.

The claimed invention is directed to a wireless control apparatus and method in which evaluation signals relating to received signals in respective wireless terminals are received, a supplement signal for supplementing the received signals in the respective wireless terminals is determined, and the determined supplement signal is transmitted to the respective wireless terminals.

With such a claimed structure, a wireless terminal that had not correctly received information can acquire any deficient information through other wireless terminals that received the information, based on a supplement signal, to thereby improve reliability of communication. As a non-limiting example with respect to Figure 1 in the present specification, if terminal 4 did not receive all its intended information, terminal 4 can transmit an evaluation signal indicating a deficient part in the received information to a control

terminal 12, which can in turn generate a supplement signal. Terminal 3 that did properly receive the information can receive that supplement signal, and thereby terminal 3 can provide the deficient information to the terminal 4.¹ Thereby, with the claimed invention a wireless terminal that did not properly receive all information can acquire deficient information through other wireless terminals based on a supplement signal.

In the claims a wireless terminal can send an evaluation signal that results in the generation of the supplement signal. That evaluation signal can indicate any of a deficient part in the received information signal at the wireless terminal, a propagation environment, and a capability of wireless terminals. The supplement signal is generated based on such evaluation signals. Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Schultz is directed to a mobile communication system, with reference to Figure 1 therein, including a mobile base station 3 in a mobile device 10 such as a car train. In Schultz different mobile stations 5 can communication with the mobile base station 3 within the mobile vehicle 10.

The outstanding rejection appears to indicate the communications from the mobile stations 5 to the base station 3 in Schultz correspond to providing evaluation signals. Applicants traverse that grounds for rejection.

More specification, Schultz merely discloses a normal communication, for example of a cellular telephone, from the mobile stations 5 to the base station 3. Schultz does not disclose or suggest any of the mobile stations 5 transmitting an evaluation signal that indicates at least one of a deficient part in the received information signal at the wireless terminals, propagation environment, and capability of wireless terminals, and such that a supplement signal is generated in response to such an evaluation signal. As noted above, with the claimed features the supplement signal is based on the evaluation signal, and can be

¹ See the discussion in the present specification at page 7, line 1 *et seq.*

used such that a wireless terminal that did not receive all the proper information can acquire deficient information. Schultz does not disclose or suggest any such operations.

Moreover, no teachings in Gresham are believed to cure the deficiencies in Schultz, and applicants respectfully submit Gresham does not even overcome the recognized deficiencies in Schultz with respect to Schultz not generating a “supplement signal”. That is, Gresham also does not disclose or suggest generating any type of supplement signal based on a received evaluation signal as now clarified in the claims.

With respect to the features as recited in previously pending dependent claims 2 and 18, the outstanding rejection specifically referenced Schultz at column 2, lines 42-45 and column 6, lines 31-45. However, applicants respectfully submit those disclosures in Schultz do not correspond to the claimed features of the evaluation signals.

At column 2, lines 42-45 and at column 6, lines 31-45 Schultz merely discloses providing a mobile station with mobile coverage. Schultz does not disclose or suggest any generation in the mobile terminals of the specific evaluation signals.

Stated another way, the normal communication of a cellular phone as in Schultz with a base station does not result in the type of evaluation signals clarified in the claims that could indicate a deficient part in a received information signal at the wireless terminals, and result in generating a supplement signal, as appears to be the basis for the rejection.

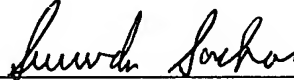
In such ways, applicants respectfully submit Schultz does not in fact disclose or suggest the noted transmission of evaluation signals, which result in the generation of a supplement signal.

In view of the foregoing comments applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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